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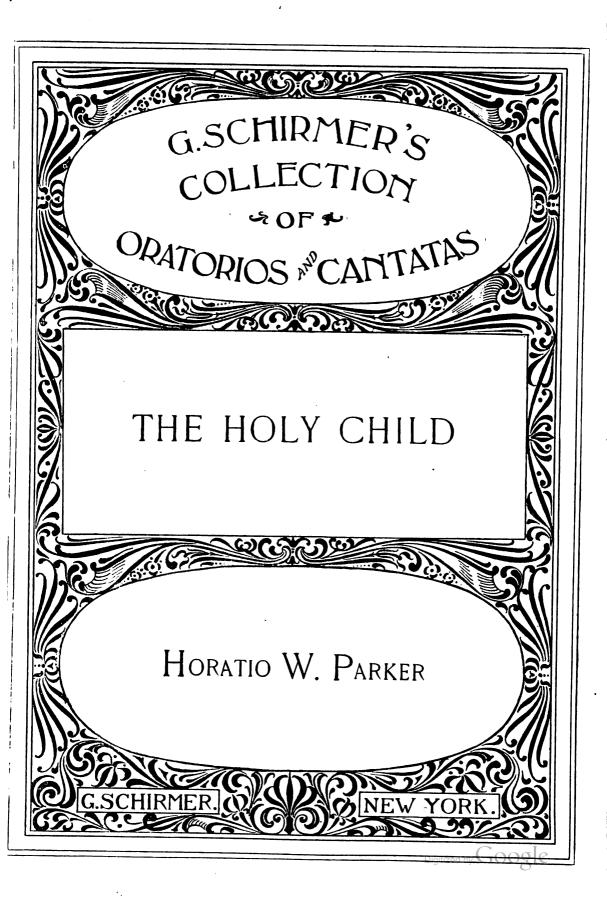
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THE HOLY CHILD

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

THE TEXT COMPILED FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

AND COMPOSED BY

ISABELLA PARKER

MUSIC

BY

HORATIO W. PARKER

Op. 37

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THE HOLY CHILD

A CANTATA FOR CHRISTMAS-TIDE

TEXT BY

ISABELLA G. PARKER.

PART I.

I.

THE ANGEL

RECT.—I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God, and I am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings. Thou shalt bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins.

St. Luke 1: 19, 31. St. Matt. 1: 21.

II.

NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM.

How soft the light on Judah's hills
And on her blessed plains,
While o'er the shepherds, watching there,
Unbroken silence reigns!

But see, a light like morn on midnight breaking, And hark, angelic choirs the song awaking!

RECIT.—Fear not! Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

St. Luke 2: 10.

The Prince of Peace this day is born, In David's city fair; Go, bow before His sacred feet, And offer homage there.

To God on high be endless praise and glory; O haste, tell all the world the wondrous story! The Visit of the Shepherds.

() ye who heard the blessed song
First fall on mortal ears,
Whose harmony shall never cease.

Down to the latest years,

How did ye haste, with eager feet, To Bethlehem's lowly shed, Where, in the manger, lay the Babe, For us incarnate made!

How reverently ye entered in To worship at His feet, Returning then, with thankful praise Those wonders to repeat!

IV.

THE MANGER-THRONE.

Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords,
Seeks the poorest shelter earth affords;

Yet that manger is a glorious throne
For Messiah, come unto His own.

Angel hosts in wonder o'er it bend, This new mystery to comprehend, Bright above the portal shines the star, Hither guiding wise men from afar.

PART II.

V.

CRADLE HYMN.

In softest slumber rest;
Thy mother's faithful arms
Shall shield Thee, Infant blest,
From all alarms!

How gentle Thy repose!
Thy brow no shadow wears;
Fairer than fairest rose
Thy face appears!

The tender, sheltering ward
Of many a seraph bright,
Thy slumber deep shall guard,
Blest Babe, to-night.

My soul doth magnify
The Lord, whose wondrous power
Hath given from on high
Such priceless dower!

So sleep, Thou sinless One, In human form enshrined, Thy earthly life begun, Heaven left behind!

To rest, with blessed dreams, Cradled in lowliness, Till morning's radiant beams The earth shall bless!

VI.

PROCESSION OF THE MAGI.
Behold the Infant King
With lowly adoration,
Who cometh, free salvation
For all the world to bring.

Our offerings we give,
Rich odors, golden treasure,
But never can we measure
The love that we receive.

Our nature Thou dost bear,
With all its woes, upon Thee,
We worship Thee, we crown Thee,
O Child divinely fair!

Dwell in our inmost heart,
True God, true man, forever,
And let Thy presence never
From that dear shrine depart.

VII.

THE PROPHETIC SONG.

Now appears the glorious morning,
Brightly downing,
By the prophets long foretold!
Light o'erspreadeth every nation,
And salvation
Bringeth blessings manifold.

God His people will deliver,
And forever
Shall they serve him without fear;
Righteousness shall go before Him.
Come, adore Him
In His holy temple here!

Now, at length, mine eyes beholding
The unfolding
Of thy sure and faithful word,
With thanksgiving pure and fervent,
Let Thy servant
In Thy peace depart, O Lord!

VIII.

HYMN OF PRAISE.

Rejoice, O heaven and earth,
And hail the glorious birth!

The Light of life all darkness has dispelled!
His lovely, radiant face
Is full of truth and grace,

Such beauty mortal eye hath ne'er beheld.

He stands, an ensign bright,
The Gentiles see His light,
And multitudes behold the sign of peace.
His rest shall glorious be,
While over land and sea,
Thro' countless years His reign shall never cease.

The Holy Child.

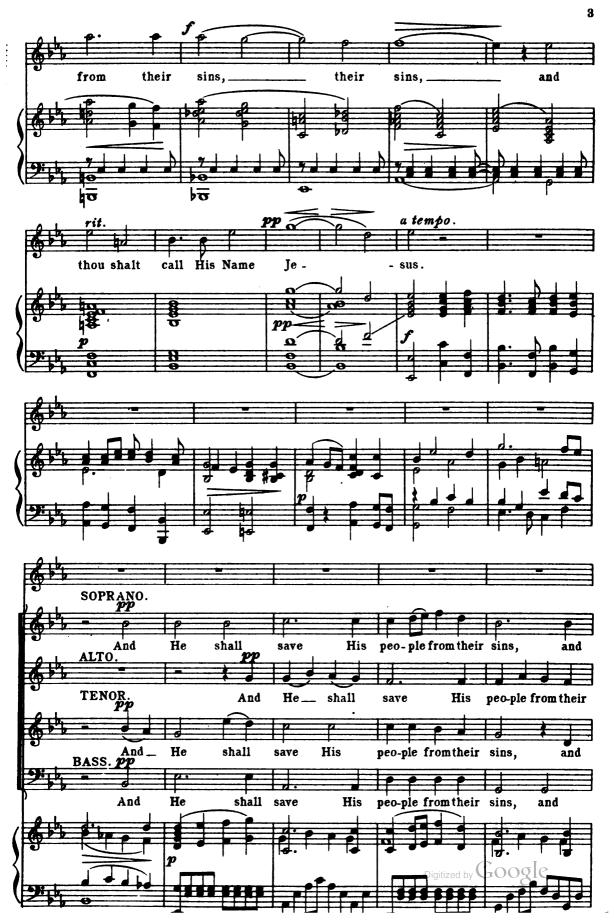
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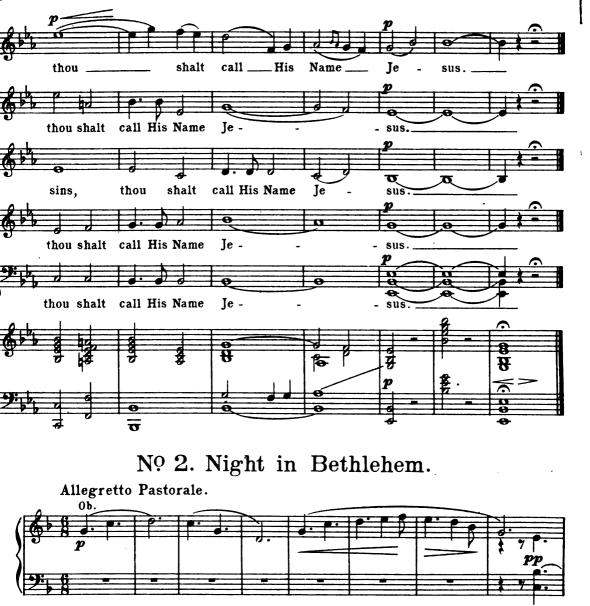
Part I.

Nº 1. The Angel.































Nº 3. The Visit of the Shepherds.







Nº 4. The Manger Throne.















Part II. Nº 5. Cradle Hymn.













Nº 6. Procession of the Magi.







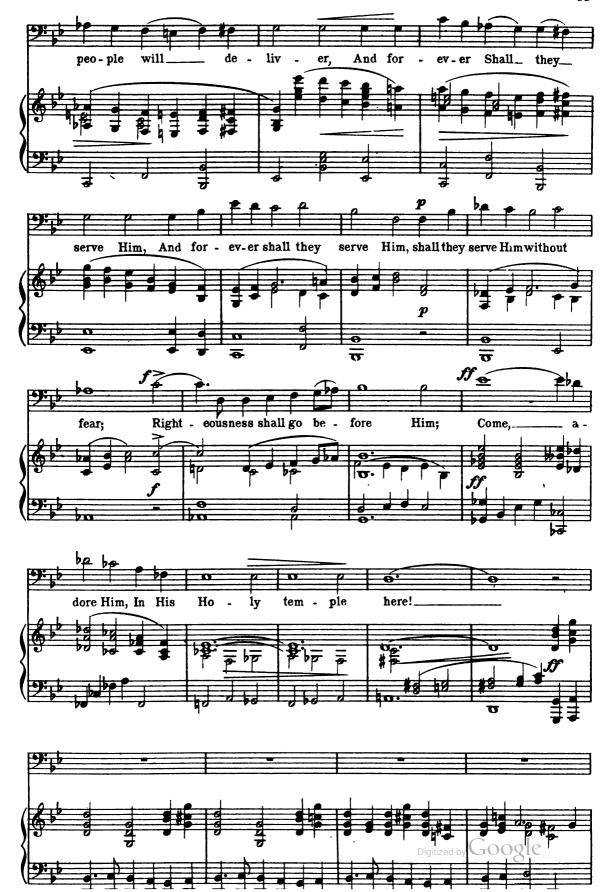






Nº 7. The Prophetic Song. Aria Bass.







Nº 8. Hymn of Praise.









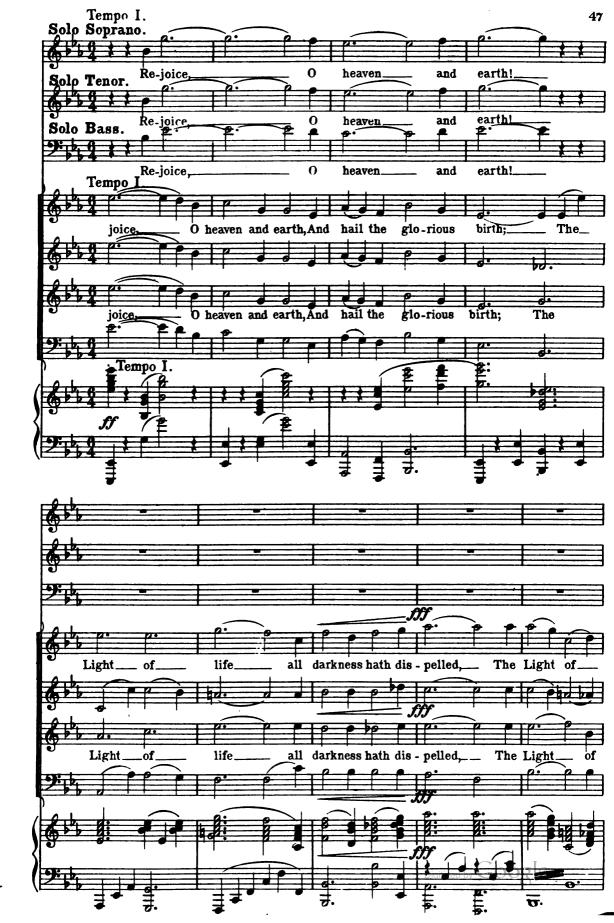














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